

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Re: Application of: Koichi NAKAJIMA  
Serial No.: Not yet known  
Filed: Simultaneously  
For: AUCTION SYSTEM

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

May 30, 2001

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows.

3. (Amended) The auction system according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein said bidding management unit stores the invitation time-period and determines the bidders after the expiration of the invitation time-period.

4. (Amended) The auction system according to [any one of claims 1, 2, and 3] claim 1, wherein said bidding management unit stores a reserve price or a suggested bidding price and announces it through the communication network.

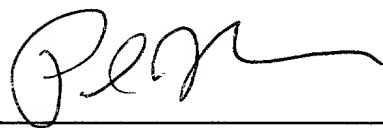
5. (Amended) The auction system according to [any one of claims 1, 2, 3 and 4] claim 1, wherein said calculating unit calculates the price distribution in the first bidding session, calculates the price distribution in the second and later bidding sessions, and compares the calculated results for the second and later bidding sessions with the supplied total number of products or services stored by said bidding management unit to determine the lowest bidding group in reference to the supplied total number or products or services in decreasing order from the highest bidding group in relation to the demanded total number of products or services and sets the bidding price of said lowest bidding group as a market price.

**REMARKS**

Claims 3-5 have been amended herein in order to remove multiple dependencies therefrom to thereby reduce the filing fee. An unmarked version of the claims as amended is attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

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**UNMARKED VERSION OF CLAIMS AS AMENDED**  
**IN PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

3. (Amended) The auction system according to claim 1, wherein said bidding management unit stores the invitation time-period and determines the bidders after the expiration of the invitation time-period.

4. (Amended) The auction system according to claim 1, wherein said bidding management unit stores a reserve price or a suggested bidding price and announces it through the communication network.

5. (Amended) The auction system according to claim 1, wherein said calculating unit calculates the price distribution in the first bidding session, calculates the price distribution in the second and later bidding sessions, and compares the calculated results for the second and later bidding sessions with the supplied total number of products or services stored by said bidding management unit to determine the lowest bidding group in reference to the supplied total number or products or services in decreasing order from the highest bidding group in relation to the demanded total number of products or services and sets the bidding price of said lowest bidding group as a market price.